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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-01-29

FILE NAME: Project HENDON

Report#: 027-2022

Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0

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The information in this report is current to 2022-01-29 at 1240 hours.

POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

1. Police observations in Ottawa note that some onsite protestors are exhibiting aggressive and threatening behaviour toward uniformed police officers. **(RELIABLE)**

OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Information from open sources, including the media and social media, is critical for developing all-source intelligence that provides context, and which identifies indicators of ideologies, beliefs, and attitudes that motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours. This component of all-source intelligence is vital for informing law enforcement in developing strategies and tactics to prevent, mitigate or respond to potential threats.

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

2. Open source has identified social media messaging in the name of ACTION4CANADA_OTTAWA_REGION asking for urgent donations to raise \$50,000 to pay for a public address system, lights, soundman, and stage for use by the protestors at Parliament Hill. The post indicates that this amount will cover these costs for the next three days. The post further notes that the GOFUNDME account for the Freedom Convoy is still frozen. Potential donors are asked to go to "givesendgo.com/Warroomcanadanet". **(RELIABLE)**

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██████████, the original manager of the GOFUNDME page recently stated that there is no problem with the GOFUNDME account. **(UNKNOWN)**

3. Open source research identified a video of three organizers of the ADOPT A TRUCKER initiative. One of these individuals stated that they have only been organizing for 6-7 weeks and they are still trying to confirm some speakers and organize events and logistics in Ottawa. She also noted that the funds from the ADOPT A TRUCKER fundraiser are intended for hosting the events in Ottawa. **(UNKNOWN)**

She outlined the following schedule of events over the next three days **(UNKNOWN)**:

- **2022-01-29 (Saturday):** Fun day to celebrate as remaining convoys arrive in Ottawa; housekeeping information; speeches starting at noon.
- **2022-01-30 (Sunday):** "Serious" day – speeches by physicians such as Paul Alexander and "Dr TROZZI".¹
- **2022-01-31 (Monday):** lots of "influencers" and politicians speaking, as Parliament will be back in session – the organizer stated this will be "mix and match". No names were mentioned, and she indicated that they are still trying to confirm speakers.

They provided no indication of any plans beyond 2022-01-31. **(RELIABLE)**

They also stated that they are watching for "infiltrators" and that they have undercover security and a volunteer security force who will surround and remove any troublemakers from the site. **(UNKNOWN)**

4. Open source research has identified a video that appears to depict ██████████ handing out cash to convoy truck drivers, stating that he had \$800. The source of these funds is unknown. It is unknown when or where the video was recorded. **(RELIABLE)**
5. Open source research has identified social media messaging advocating for Freedom Convoy/Operation BearHug 2.0 protestors to block parking lots at the headquarters of CBC, CTV and Global News to force them to start reporting the truth. It is unknown whether anyone will act on this messaging. Project HENDON previously reported similar calls, as well as calls to protest at news outlets in other municipalities for the duration of the protest in Ottawa. It is unknown whether any protestors will actually attend these locations. **(RELIABLE)**

¹ Dr. Paul Alexander is a Canadian doctor who was recruited as a science advisor to the US Department of Health and Human Services under the TRUMP administration. He reportedly advocated for mass infection of the population with COVID-19 to achieve "herd immunity" and also allegedly attempted to coerce the then-head of the Centers for Disease Control to alter their weekly reporting on mortality rates to support the TRUMP Administration's pandemic narrative. "Dr. TROZZI" is likely Dr. Raymond TROZZI, an Ontario doctor who has been the subject of an investigation by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and who was reportedly prohibited from issuing vaccine exemptions.

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6. Open source research has identified social media messaging that states that “they” have brick trucks and are dropping bricks around Ottawa in order to incite a riot that will be blamed on peaceful protestors. **(UNRELIABLE)**
7. Media reporting indicates that some businesses in downtown Ottawa are not opening on 2022-01-29 due to the presence of the protest.
8. The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy has raised \$8 million (2022-01-29 1232 hours). **(RELIABLE)**
9. The “ADOPT A TRUCKER” fundraiser had raised \$46,447 as of 2022-01-28. Updated data is not available. **(RELIABLE)**

ASSESSMENT

The protest in Ottawa has the potential to pose a real public safety and officer safety threat. It is possible that spontaneous actions may develop organically, and evolve and be executed rapidly with no advance preparation or planning over the course of the protest in Ottawa. The available information suggests that the protestors have scheduled events in Ottawa at least through Monday, 2022-01-31. There is no indication of any plans after Monday, although previous information indicated they would remain for one week. The lack of information and apparent last-minute organizing tends to suggest that, while the convoys themselves were well organized, plans for the actual protest in Ottawa may not be.

Spontaneous actions by the protestors will likely pose a challenge for ensuring public safety: spontaneous events may be more likely to push or break the limits of lawful behaviour, and may be more emotionally driven, than pre-planned and well organized protests. Further, it is highly unlikely that law enforcement on site will be able to mitigate or prevent any such actions, but will only be able to respond, which could escalate any extant animosity toward authority on the part of protestors.

As such, spontaneous events that might occur could pose both a public safety and an officer safety threat.

Misinformation and disinformation continues to feed the “false flag” narrative of infiltrators intent on disrupting the protest. This may provoke conflict amongst protest attendees, particularly if any attempts are made by protestors to restrain or apprehend other protestors. Any such incident has the potential to escalate and could lead to physical conflict amongst protestors, or between protestors and police.

The solicitation of additional funds raises questions. If the GOFUNDME remains frozen, this could curtail the ability of participants to remain in Ottawa for an extended period of time, or, as the current information indicates, to pay for material support needed for the protest. However, it is unknown why some of the \$50,000

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allegedly needed could not be drawn from other fundraising platforms previously established by the protest organizers. Conflicting information about the status of the GOFUNDME account could cause internal conflict amongst protestors, and will likely feed the narrative that the government is attempting to silence them. This could result in spontaneous protests that could include violence. Federal government assets in Ottawa present likely targets for any such protests.

Project HENDON has not identified any concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest or Operation BearHug 2.0. However, the protest in Ottawa has the potential to pose a real public safety and officer safety threat. The possibility that the protest, or elements of it, could escalate quickly to direct action that requires a law enforcement response, or that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a threat with little or no warning, cannot be excluded.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Unconfirmed information of unknown reliability suggests that **some convoy participants or supporters may bring weapons** with them to Ottawa;
- Spontaneous protests may occur with no warning.
- Police communications on convoy movements appear to be monitored and re-broadcast on YouTube;
- Potential live-streaming of protest by attendees;
- Some attendees may be using the SIGNAL app (encrypted) for communication;
- Potential use of drones for counter-surveillance and tactical planning;

INTELLIGENCE GAPS (COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS)

Priority intelligence gaps are in red font.

- **Extent of extremist participation in convoy protest and intent of extremist actors;**
- **Potential for some participants to bring weapons or be armed;**
- Plans for any further action should demands not be met;
- Plans for departing Ottawa.

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EVENT SCHEDULE

2022-01-29

- **Ottawa: Freedom Convoy** – Confederation Park/Parliament Hill (1200 hours)
- **Ottawa: Sled and ATV Freedom Convoy/Ride to Parliament** – Cumberland boat launch (1000 hours);
- **Simcoe: Norfolk Convoy Support Walk** – Wellington Park (1130 hours);
- **Niagara Falls (New York): Freedom Convoy** – Rainbow Blvd. N. (1300 hours)
- **Niagara Falls (Ontario): Freedom Convoy Gathering** – Rainbow Bridge (1315 hours)
- **North Glengarry: Vanleek Hill Meeting Point**-21260 Service Rd. (0800 hours) meeting point TBA.
- **Temiskaming Shores: Convoy 2022 to Ottawa Support Gathering**- Location TBA (1200 hours)
- **Hamilton: Freedom Rally** – Hamilton City Hall (1400 hours)
- **Toronto: 2022 March for Freedom (Freedom Protest)** – Union Station (1200 hours)
- **Thornbury: Freedom Rally** – Hwy 26 beside the bridge (1200 hours)
- **Windsor: Windsor Slowdown - Peaceful Cruise to Support Peaceful Convoy/Protest in Ottawa** – slow-roll protest Huron Church Rd, starting at Mic Mac Park (0900 hours);
- **Kincardine: Support Convoy** – Royal Bank, Queen St (1400 hours)

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Date:	29 January 2022	

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